

Majority in U.S. concerned about climate: AP-NORC/EPIC poll


WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden heads to a vital U.N. climate summit at a time when a majority of Americans regard the deteriorating climate as a problem of high importance to them, an increase from just a few years ago. About 6 out of 10 Americans also believe that the pace of global warming is speeding up, according to a new survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.


As Biden struggles to pass significant climate legislation at home ahead of next week's U.N. climate summit, the new AP-NORC/EPIC poll also shows that 55% of Americans want Congress to pass a bill to ensure that more of the nation's electricity comes from clean energy and less from climate-damaging coal and natural gas.



The shoreline is receding at Emerald Bay on the southwest corner of Lake Tahoe on Oct. 20, 2021 east of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.
Associated Press
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Only 16% of Americans oppose such a measure for electricity from cleaner energy. A similar measure initially was one of the most important parts of climate legislation that Biden has before Congress. But Biden's proposal to reward utilities with clean energy sources and penalize those without ran into objections from a coal-state senator, Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia, leaving fellow Democrats scrambling to come up with other ways to slash pollution from burning fossil fuels.

For some of the Americans watching, it's an exasperating delay in dealing with an urgent problem.

"If you follow science, the signs are here," said Nancy Reilly, a Democrat in Missouri who's retired after 40 years as a retail manager, and worries for her children as the climate deteriorates. "It's already here. And what was the first thing they start watering down to get



In this Oct. 15, 2021, photo, the U.S. Capitol is seen between cardboard cutouts of flames during a climate change protest near the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

this bill through? Climate change."

"It's just maddening," Reilly said. "I understand why, I do — I get the politics of it. I'm sick of the politics of it." After President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris climate accord, the Biden administration hoped to help negotiate major emissions cuts globally to slow the rise of temperatures. But it's un-

clear whether Biden will be able to get any significant climate legislation through Congress before the U.N. summit starts Sunday.

In all, 59% of Americans said the Earth's warming is very or extremely important to them as an issue, up from 49% in 2018. Fifty-four percent of Americans cited scientists' voices as having a large amount of influence on their views about

climate change, and nearly as many, 51%, said their views were influenced by recent extreme weather events like hurricanes, deadly heat spells, wildfires and other natural disasters around the world.

Over the last 60 years, the pollution pumped out by gasoline and diesel engines, power plants and other sources has changed the climate and warmed the Earth by 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit, making the extremes of weather more extreme.

In east Tennessee's Smoky Mountains, leaf-peeper websites this year are advising fall foliage tourists that leaves are taking days longer than normal to turn from green to fiery orange and red. It's not evidence of climate change as a one-off instance, but typical of the changes Americans are seeing as the Earth heats up.

"Normally you get the four seasons, fall, spring, and winter, and it goes in that

way. But lately, it's not been that," said Jeremy Wilson, a 42-year-old who votes independent and works the grounds at a scenic chairlift park that runs people up to the top of the Smoky Mountains. "It's been either way hotter, or way colder."

Seventy-five percent of Americans believe that climate change is happening, while 10% believe that it is not, the poll found. Another 15% are unsure.

Among those who say it is happening, 54% say that it's caused mostly or entirely by human activities compared to just 14% who think — incorrectly, scientists say — that it's caused mainly by natural changes in the environment. Another 32% of Americans believe it's a mix of human and natural factors. And while Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say climate change is happening, majorities of both parties agree that it is. That breaks down to 89% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans. □

150 people arrested in U.S.-Europe darknet drug probe



Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, second from left, together with, from left, Deputy Executive Director Jean-Philippe Lecouffe of Europol; FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate; Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division; and Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Anne Milgram, speaks during a news at the Department of Justice in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

WASHINGTON (AP) — Law enforcement officials in the U.S. and Europe have

arrested 150 people and seized more than \$31 million in an international drug trafficking investiga-

tion stemming from sales on the darknet, the Justice Department said Tuesday. The arrests are connected to a 10-month investigation between federal law enforcement officials in the U.S. and Europol in Europe. Prosecutors allege those charges are responsible for tens of thousands of illegal sales in the U.S., the United Kingdom, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Justice Department says investigators have seized over \$31.6 million in cash and virtual currency and 45 guns.

The darknet is a part of the internet hosted within an encrypted network and

accessible only through specialized anonymity-providing tools, most notably the Tor Browser.

Investigators also recovered a slew of illegal drugs, including counterfeit medication and opioid pills, along with more than 152 kilograms of amphetamine, 21 kilograms of cocaine and 32.5 kilograms of MDMA, according to prosecutors.

Those arrested include 65 people in the U.S., 47 in Germany, 24 people in the United Kingdom, four in Italy, four in the Netherlands, three in France, two in Switzerland and one person in Bulgaria.

Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said investi-

gators found darknet vendors were running fake laboratories in their homes to create fake pills — designed to look like prescription pain pills — that are laced with fentanyl, methamphetamine and other illegal drugs.

The operation was specifically designed to target "drug distributors who use the darknet to traffic these illicit drugs and items like pill presses, which are fueling the ongoing opioid crisis plaguing our communities," Monaco said.

The Justice Department said its investigation was ongoing and investigators were still working to identify other individuals behind darknet accounts. □

Senators put YouTube, TikTok, Snap on defensive on kids' use

By MARCY GORDON and MATT O'BRIEN

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators put executives from YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat on the defensive Tuesday, questioning them about what they're doing to ensure young users' safety on their platforms.

Citing the harm that can come to vulnerable young people from the sites — ranging from eating disorders to exposure to sexually explicit content and material promoting addictive drugs — the lawmakers also sought the executives' support for legislation bolstering protection of children on social media. But they received little firm commitment.

"The problem is clear: Big Tech preys on children and teens to make more money," Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said at a hearing by the Senate Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection.

The subcommittee recently took testimony from a former Facebook data scientist, who laid out internal company research showing that the company's Instagram photo-sharing service appears to seriously harm some teens. The subcommittee is widening its focus to examine other tech platforms, with millions or billions of users, that also compete for young people's attention and loyalty. "We're hearing the same stories of harm" caused by YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat, said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., the panel's chairman.

"This is for Big Tech a big tobacco moment ... It is a moment of reckoning," he said. "There will be accountability. This time is different."

To that end, Markey asked the three executives — Michael Beckerman, a TikTok vice president and head of public policy for the Americas; Leslie Miller, vice president for government affairs and public policy of YouTube's owner Google; and Jennifer Stout, vice president for global public policy of Snapchat parent



This Aug. 9, 2017, file photo shows the Youtube, left, and Snapchat apps on a mobile device in New York.

Associated Press

Snap Inc. — if they would support his bipartisan legislation that would give new privacy rights to children, and ban targeted ads and video autoplay for kids.

In a lengthy exchange as Markey tried to draw out a commitment of support, the executives avoided providing a direct endorsement, insisting that their platforms already are complying with the proposed restrictions. They said they're seeking a dialogue with lawmakers as the legislation is crafted. That wasn't good enough for Markey and Blumenthal, who perceived a classic Washington lobbying game in a moment of crisis for social media and the tech industry. "This is the talk that we've seen again and again and again," Blumenthal told them. Applauding legislative goals in a general way is "meaningless" unless backed up by specific support, he said.

"Sex and drugs are violations of our community standards; they have no place on TikTok," Beckerman said. TikTok has tools in place, such as screen-time management, to help young people and parents moderate how long children spend on the app and what they see, he said. The company says it focuses on age-appropriate experiences, noting that some features, such as di-

rect messaging, are not available to younger users. The video platform, wildly popular with teens and

younger children, is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. In only five years since launching, it has gained an estimated 1 billion monthly users.

Early this year after federal regulators order TikTok to disclose how its practices affect children and teenagers, the platform tightened its privacy practices for users under 18.

Pressed by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., about a 19-year-old said to have died from counterfeit pain medication he bought through Snapchat, Stout said, "We're absolutely determined to remove all drug dealers from Snapchat." She said the platform has deployed detection measures against dealers but acknowledged that they are often evaded. □

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Coroner IDs suspect in Boise mall shooting that killed 2

By **REBECCA BOONE**

BOISE, Idaho (AP)— The suspect in a Boise mall shooting that killed two people and injured four others has died, the Boise Police Department said Tuesday.

The Ada County Coroner identified the suspected shooter as Jacob Bergquist, a 27-year-old Boise man. Coroner Dotti Owens said Bergquist's cause of death was still pending, but he died late Tuesday morning at a hospital.

Owens identified one of the people killed as Jo Acker, a 26-year-old security guard who worked at the mall. Family members said she died while trying to stop the shooter.

"Jo you were always kind of loving you always had such an enormous heart of gold," Acker's sister Shawna Lee Lannigan wrote on Facebook. "You were and are and always will be a hero. I love you to the ends of this earth and beyond." The Boise Police Department first got the call that shots had been fired at the Boise Towne Square Mall at about 1:50 p.m., with callers describing a white man dressed in black, in possession of multiple guns.

In a prepared statement released Tuesday afternoon, the police department



Eric Balderas, an employee at a department store at the Boise Towne Square shopping mall, rests on a police vehicle after falling while evacuating the mall during a shooting Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, in Boise, Idaho.

Associated Press

said evidence shows the shooter was first contacted by a security guard who was shot and killed at the scene. Police said the shooter then fired several rounds, shooting a glass escalator and a second victim who died of his injuries at a hospital.

The Ada County Coroner identified the slain man as Roberto Padilla Arguelles, 49, of Rupert, who was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The shooter then walked through the mall, firing rounds into the floor, which led to a 52-year-old woman

and a 23-year-old woman being injured. Another man was injured when he fell while trying to escape the mall.

About three minutes after the initial report, responding officers saw the suspect running from mall area. They exchanged gunfire with the suspect outside a nearby business along a busy road, with the suspect shooting toward the road, according to the police department.

A 68-year-old woman who was in her car on the road was injured in the gunfight, according to police. An of-

ficer was also injured in the shootout, and was treated and released from the hospital.

Police found 18 spent shell casings inside the mall, and the investigation shows that the shooter had several guns and ammunition at the mall, the department said.

"We really cannot at this time speak to any motivation behind it," Lee said during a press conference Monday afternoon. "I cannot stress enough how traumatic this event is for the community at large, as well as for those that were wit-

nesses, or are the families of those involved or involved themselves."

Investigators were working to notify the family members of those injured and killed in the shooting, Lee said at the time.

Boise Mayor Lauren McLean asked people and the news media to give the victims and their families privacy as they deal with the trauma of the shooting. "Countless people found themselves in a situation they never would have or should have expected," McLean said, praising shopkeepers and others for reacting "so quickly to take care of folks that were there. You showed in a tough and chaotic moment how much you care and what you're willing to do to support and care for strangers."

Cheri Gypin was among those who were at the mall during the shooting. She thought something had fallen from the ceiling when she heard several large bangs.

Then Gypin and a friend saw about 60 people, including families pushing strollers, come running at them — with some shouting there was an active shooter at the mall on Monday afternoon. □

Nor'easter has New England bracing for floods, power outages



A wave crashes into the retaining wall of a home in Fairhaven, Mass. on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021 as a powerful nor'easter makes its way across the Northeast.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP)— A nor'easter barreled up the U.S. coast Tuesday, and forecasters warned it could bring flooding, hurricane-force

wind gusts and widespread power outages to New England.

The worst of the storm was expected to lash the re-

gion late Tuesday through Wednesday morning. Wind gusts as high as 75 mph were forecast on Cape Cod, with sustained winds as high as 45 mph. The National Weather Service warned that waves off the Massachusetts coast could reach 19 feet.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority suspended its ferry service Tuesday and Wednesday. In Salem, which hosts one of the nation's largest Halloween festivals through October, the town canceled ferry service to Boston, urging visitors to take a commuter train instead.

The early nor'easter arrives before many trees have shed their leaves for the winter, raising the risk for

power outages as branches covered in wet, heavy leaves blow onto transmission lines. Eversource, a power company that serves much of New England, warned that widespread outages were possible through Wednesday. In New Bedford, a COVID-19 testing operation closed early because of the storm, and residents were urged to secure outdoor furniture and bring pets inside.

Flash flood warnings remained in effect through Tuesday evening in southern Connecticut, northeastern New Jersey and southeastern New York, along with high wind warnings from New York to Massachusetts.

The storm disrupted travel plans for some, like Pat Clarke, of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

"When we heard about the weather, we changed our minds and thought we'd better get home," Clarke told NBC Boston. "There will be a lot of wind, rain and streets flooded and trees down, so here we are."

The storm disrupted some flights, and federal officials warned about possible delays or cancellations.

The storm, which is expected to be felt as far north as Nova Scotia, drenched the mid-Atlantic earlier Tuesday, dropping nearly 5 inches of rain on parts of New Jersey. Strong winds were forecast for the area through Wednesday. □

Iran says cyberattack closes gas stations across country

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A cyberattack crippled gas stations across Iran on Tuesday, leaving angry motorists stranded in long lines.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which rendered useless the government-issued electronic cards that many Iranians use to buy subsidized fuel at the pump.

It bore similarities to another attack months earlier that seemed to directly challenge Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as the country's economy buckles under American sanctions. Those economic problems worsen as the U.S. and Iran have yet to jointly re-enter Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

State television quoted an unnamed official in the country's National Security Council acknowledging the cyberattack, hours after it aired images of long lines of cars waiting to fill up in Tehran. Associated Press

journalists also saw lines of cars at Tehran gas stations, with the pumps off and the station closed.

"I have been waiting a couple of hours for the gas stations to reopen so that I can fill up," said a motorcyclist who gave his name only as Farzin. "There is no fuel wherever I go."

The semiofficial ISNA news agency, which first called the incident a cyberattack, said it saw those trying to buy fuel with a government-issued card through the machines instead receive a message reading "cyberattack 64411." Most Iranians rely on those subsidies to fuel their vehicles, particularly amid the country's economic problems.

While ISNA didn't acknowledge the number's significance, that number is associated with a hotline run through Khamenei's office that handles questions about Islamic law. ISNA later removed its reports, claiming that it too had been hacked. Such claims of hacking can come quickly when Iranian outlets publish news that an-



A worker leans against a gasoline pump that has been turned off, at a gas station in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

gers the theocracy. Farsi-language satellite channels abroad published videos apparently shot by drivers in Isfahan, a major Iranian city, showing electronic billboards there reading: "Khamenei! Where is our gas?" Another said: "Free gas in Jamaran gas station," a reference to the home of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

State TV said Oil Ministry officials were holding an "emergency meeting" to

solve the problem. Some gas stations that accept only cash and are not in the subsidy card network continued pumping fuel.

The use of the number "64411" mirrored an attack in July targeting Iran's rail-road system that also saw the number displayed. Israeli cybersecurity firm Check Point later attributed the train attack to a group of hackers that called themselves Indra, after the Hindu god of war. Indra previously targeted

firms in Syria, where President Bashar Assad has held onto power through Iran's intervention in his country's grinding war.

Cheap gasoline is practically considered a birthright in Iran, home to the world's fourth-largest crude oil reserves despite decades of economic woes. Subsidies allow Iranian motorists to buy regular gasoline at 15,000 rials per liter. That's 5 cents a liter, or about 20 cents a gallon. After a monthly 60-liter quota, it costs 30,000 rials a liter. That's 10 cents a liter or 41 cents a gallon. Regular gasoline costs 89 cents a liter or \$3.38 a gallon on average in the U.S., according to AAA.

In 2019, Iran faced days of mass protests across some 100 cities and towns over gasoline prices rising. Security forces arrested thousands and Amnesty International said it believes 304 people were killed in a government crackdown. Tuesday's cyberattack came in the same month in the Persian calendar as the gasoline protests in 2019. □

Kashmir students face terror law for cheering Pakistan win

SRINAGAR, India (AP) —

Police in Indian-controlled Kashmir are investigating students and staff at two medical colleges under a harsh anti-terror law for celebrating India's loss to archrival Pakistan in a T20 World Cup cricket game, officials said Tuesday.

Police said some students and staff at the government-run colleges cheered and shouted pro-Pakistan slogans during the match Sunday night, calling it "anti-national" activity.

Pakistan crushed India by 10 wickets for its first-ever victory against its archrival in a T20 World Cup game in Dubai. Minutes after Pakistan won the match, hundreds of people in Kashmir danced in the streets, lit firecrackers and chanted "Long live Pakistan" while seeking the end of India's rule over the disputed region.

The celebrations came as India's powerful home minister, Amit Shah, was visiting the region for the first time since New Delhi in 2019 stripped Kashmir of its semi-autonomy, scrapped its statehood and removed inherited protections on land and jobs, further fueling tensions in the region.

Love of cricket, a legacy of Britain's long colonial role of South Asia, is one of the few things that unites Pakistan and India despite their long history of animosity that has fueled three wars since the subcontinent's partition in 1947, including two over control of Kashmir, which is divided between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

The fracas over Sunday's match shows how easily passions can be inflamed in predominantly Muslim Kashmir, where anti-India sentiment runs deep. Rebels have been fighting for

Kashmir's independence or its merger with Pakistan since 1989.

A police spokesman said authorities on Monday registered preliminary investigations at two police stations in the city of Srinagar under the anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Police said the suspects were yet to be identified and officers were using videos of the celebrations on social media in an attempt to name them.

The anti-terror law was amended in 2019 to allow the government to designate individuals as terrorists. Police can detain people for six months without producing any evidence, and the accused can subsequently be imprisoned for up to seven years. Rights activists have called the law draconian.

Over a dozen Kashmiri stu-



A paramilitary vehicle passes the front gate of Government Medical College in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

dents were attacked in India's northern Punjab state for celebrating Pakistan's victory, news reports said. India describes the armed rebellion in the portion of Kashmir it controls as a Pakistan proxy war and state-sponsored terrorism. Most

Muslim Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle.

The region is one of the most heavily militarized in the world. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict. □

Myanmar skips ASEAN summit after its military ruler excluded

By EILEEN NG and JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) —

Southeast Asian leaders began their annual summit without Myanmar on Tuesday amid a diplomatic standoff over the exclusion of the leader of the military-ruled nation from the group's meetings.

Myanmar skipped the summit in protest after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations shut out its top general from its meetings.

ASEAN's refusal to allow Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to represent Myanmar at the summit was its harshest rebuke yet of the country's military rulers since they ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in February.

Brunei, who is this year's chair of the 10-member bloc, invited Myanmar's highest-ranking veteran diplomat, U Chan Aye, as a "non-political" representative, but he didn't attend the meeting, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told reporters in Jakarta.

Marsudi said President Joko Widodo told the summit that ASEAN's unprecedented downgrade of Myanmar's participation "was a tough decision but it had to be done."

Despite ASEAN's bedrock principles of non-interference in other members' affairs and decisions by



In this June 23, 2021, file photo, Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing delivers his speech at the IX Moscow conference on international security in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

consensus, Widodo said it is "also obliged to uphold other principles in the ASEAN charter such as democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and constitutional government," Marsudi said. Myanmar's military takeover triggered widespread protests and a violent crackdown by authorities. Security forces are estimated to have killed almost 1,200 civilians, though the government has claimed a lower death toll.

Myanmar's absence at the summit followed the refusal of its military leaders to al-

low an ASEAN special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, to meet with Suu Kyi and other detained civilian leaders. Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha told the summit that the Myanmar crisis was a test of ASEAN's ability to resolve its own regional problems, Thai government spokesperson Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said. Prayut expressed hope that Myanmar will trust ASEAN and allow Erywan to meet with all parties concerned as an important first step in solving the crisis, Thanakorn

added.

A statement issued by Brunei after the summit didn't mention Myanmar's absence but said the bloc's leaders called again for mediation in the Myanmar crisis to "uphold ASEAN's credibility."

Myanmar's Foreign Ministry took a more conciliatory tone later Tuesday, saying its decision not to attend the summit was not intended to "show its protest against ASEAN or to boycott ASEAN." It said it was just exercising its rights because it believed ASEAN's decision to keep its leader

away from the summit was against the bloc's charter.

"Myanmar will continue to constructively cooperate with ASEAN," it said. Myanmar has insisted it cooperated with Erywan but that he cannot meet with Suu Kyi and some others because they face criminal charges.

The three-day talks, which are being held by video due to coronavirus concerns, will be joined by other world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden and the leaders of China and Russia. The meetings are expected to spotlight Myanmar's worsening crisis as well as other regional security and economic issues.

While ASEAN took a major step in excluding Min Aung Hlaing from the summit, a group of lawmakers working to improve rights in the region, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, urged the bloc on Tuesday to engage with Myanmar's opposition National Unity Government. NUG views itself as a shadow government and had sought to attend the ASEAN summit.

"ASEAN must discontinue inviting any other junta representatives to all ASEAN official meetings until there is an end to violence, all political prisoners are freed, and the will of the people for fully fledged democracy has been heard," the group said in a statement. □

Trudeau overhauls Canadian cabinet, gives women top roles



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is framed by a hat worn by an elder as he visits Tk'emlups the Sewepemc in Kamloops, British Columbia, Monday, Oct. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

overhauled his cabinet on Tuesday and named women to the foreign affairs and defense posts in his gender balanced cabinet.

Trudeau named Mélanie Joly as foreign minister and Anita Anand as defense minister. Chrystia Freeland, widely considered a favorite to replace Trudeau at some point, retains her positions as deputy prime minister and finance minister. Women make up half of the Cabinet, as they have done since Trudeau's Liberal government was first elected in 2015.

Joly, a 42-year-old from

Montreal, previously served as minister of economic development and before that as heritage minister. Anand, a 54-year-old from Oakville, Ontario is just the second woman to serve as Canada's defense minister. The 54-year-old from Ontario previously served as procurement minister and led the country's efforts to purchase vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trudeau also created a new role, a minister of mental health and addictions. Carolyn Bennett has been tapped to take on the role.

Harjit Sajjan, heavily criticized for his handling of sexual misconduct allegations in Canada's military, is leaving the defense portfolio to take up a new post in international development. Only 10 ministers in Trudeau's last cabinet are staying put. The cabinet adds up to 39 ministers, including Trudeau.

Canadians gave Trudeau's Liberal Party a victory in parliamentary elections last month, but his gamble to win a majority of seats failed and the result was remarkably similar to the election two years ago. □

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VP: Brazil to seek zero deforestation by 2028, up from 2030

By DAVID BILLER
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's government will accelerate its timeline by two to three years to completely eliminate illegal deforestation, Vice President Hamilton Mourão told foreign press reporters on Monday. Mourão said the Brazilian delegation to the upcoming U.N. climate talks in Glasgow will announce its target of zero illegal logging by 2027 or 2028, sooner than the 2030 goal President Jair Bolsonaro presented at the White House-led climate summit in April. "A more ambitious goal in terms of reducing illegal deforestation in a shorter time would be, in my opinion, extremely welcome by the international community," Mourão, who coordinates the government's Amazon Council, said in a video call. "And it would make clear the government's commitment to work to impede climate change from hurting life on earth." The 2030 goal already represented a nod to U.S. President Joe Biden, who had called out Brazil's environmental track record on the campaign trail last year. For his part, Bolsonaro campaigned in 2018 promising to unlock the vast resources of the Amazon and downplaying the rights and desires of Indigenous people to leave vast territories untouched. His stance is widely seen as having emboldened illegal logging and wildcat mining that sent deforestation surging and caused global outcry. Bolsonaro has reeled in such contentious rhetoric as he seeks to rehabilitate Brazil's tattered environmental image abroad and project responsible stewardship. His critics have warned that his shift is dis-



In this Aug. 23, 2020 file photo, cattle graze on land recently burned and deforested by cattle farmers near Novo Progresso, Para state, Brazil.

Associated Press

ingenuous and that recent months of encouraging data that indicated less deforestation don't necessarily represent a trend. For several months, the Brazilian space agency's satellites recorded fewer deforestation alerts in the Amazon than the same months in 2020. At the United Nations in September, Bolsonaro credited his administration's redoubled efforts for the plunge of alerts the prior month. But the number of alerts in September was roughly flat year-on-year, and preliminary data for October shows it on track to far outpace the destruction of the same month last year. Earlier this month, Mourão said that the three-month deployment of 3,000 soldiers to the Amazon rainforest to prevent deforestation and man-made fires was coming to an end and wouldn't be extended. Mourão told the foreign press on Monday that the administration continues to hold that the Amazon

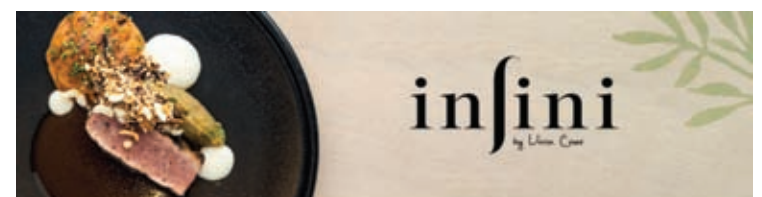
should be developed -- but in a manner congruent with a view toward sustainability and arresting climate change, and in observance of Brazilian law. Asked about the ongoing dispute over the double counting of carbon credits -- in both the nation offsetting emissions and the nation buying the offsets -- Mourão initially said the government is opposed, which would mark a change in the country's stance. Nations in Glasgow will address potentially closing loopholes that allow for double counting; that would force countries like Brazil to decide if they count emissions reductions toward their own goals, or the sale of reductions abroad to another country's goals. "Double counting, I have absolute certainty we don't agree with that there," he said. "We don't support that under any hypothesis." Pressed further for clarification about whether the government was shifting its

position, he said he wasn't privy to the delegation's negotiation strategy.

"It's not up to me to unravel all the nuances of that strategy. You know, it is a negotiation, and it is being done with that 'push and pull,'" Mourão said, adding that he hopes to reach consensus that yields "mutual benefits."

Experts have accused Brazil of adjusting its emissions targets last year in a way that would allow it to release more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, unlike most other nations, which have stepped up ambitions.

"Brazil has made a significantly worse proposal," said Niklas Hoehne of the Berlin-based New Climate Institute. □



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Aruba is considered a very desirable destination for airlines

ORANJESTAD – The Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber met with the Airlift Committee for the latest developments regarding air traffic in Aruba. The airlift committee's task is to find more airlines to add Aruba to their itinerary as a destination. Aruba is currently positioning itself as a very desirable destination for airlines.

Currently, 25 airlines are arriving from 28 different

destinations, representing a 86% recovery rate of our tourism compared to 2019. The Air Seat Capacity for 2021 is 1,350,852, which is a 21% decrease compared to 2019. According to the outlooks for 2022, Aruba will see an Air Seat Capacity of 1,718,176.

In comparison with Mexico and other Caribbean destinations, Aruba is generating way more profit for the airlines. Hence, it



Minneapolis, will resume which is very important and positive for Aruba.

South America

The South American market is also steadily growing each year and is also a very potential market for Aruba. Especially Colombia is one of the countries that is showing opportunities for growth of more destinations. Colombia is the biggest market in South America. There is plenty of interest for direct flights from Medellin and there are also actively exploring direct flights from Barranquilla and Cali.

Minister Dangui Oduber is satisfied with how tourism is developing and is very optimistic for the 2022 outlook. Let's move forward together as a country and recover 100% of our tourism. □



makes Aruba a very desirable destination for airlines that more airlines want to fly to. An example is Frontier, which will initiate its first flight to Aruba from Miami starting November 20, 2021. Delta Airlines will also add the route Boston - Aruba starting December 18, 2021.

North America

The USA remains the most important market for Aru-

ba. Of all flights, 92% come from the East, Midwest, and South of the USA. Research indicates that there are more opportunities for more flights from this area of the USA. There is ample room to stimulate the demand. According to the Minister, they are considering the exploration of the markets Pittsburgh - Hartford - Cleveland, and Detroit. Soon flights from La Guardia - Chicago - Dallas, and

The Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors

ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Tourism Authority takes pride in honoring loyal Aruba visitors who have been coming to the island for many years consecutively. The honorees receive a certificate and an honorary title based on the amount of years they have been coming.

The titles are as follow: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 35+ years "Emerald Ambassador". These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination.

Jonathan Boekhoudt, representative of ATA had the pleasure to honor Emerald Ambassadors,

Norman and Patricia Stockman from Florida and Giovanna Gollinge from New Jersey. The honorees stated that they love coming to the island for its beautiful weather, friendly people and the staff at the Playa Linda resort.

Also honored were **John and Elaine Burick from Texas**, who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors due to their 20th consecutive visit to Aruba. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at the **Costa Linda Resort**. The couple loves coming back to Aruba for the great weather, friendly people, abundant activities and easy feel of the island. □



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Aruba delegation meets CBP executives in Washington DC



ORANJESTAD - A delegation consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Justice, the director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Aruba Ports Authority, Embassy of the Netherlands, and under the leadership of the Plenipotentiary Minister based in Washington, traveled to Washington DC. The delegation had a consultation meeting with the US Customs and Border Protection and State Department about the US Preclearance in Aruba.

Aruba, as the frontrunner, negotiated a pre-inspection treaty for the US Customs and Immigration back in 1994 and achieved the establishment of the US Pre Clearance at the Queen Beatrix International Airport. The CBP Pre Clearance is essential to maintain the stability and growth of tourism in Aruba since the majority of tourists are from the USA. The CBP officials expressed their long-awaited desire to modernize and expand the Pre Clearance treaty of 1994, like the shortage of personnel and limited budget. The US Pre Clearance is essential for the economy of Aruba. Therefore, the Government has prioritized this matter and confirmed its commitment to renegotiate the treaty. Before the Consultation meeting, both parties brainstormed extensively about security, operational aspects, and legal interpretation. The meeting was productive, and both parties expressed their commitment to maintaining the CBP Pre Clearance operations in Aruba. The officials outlined a detailed plan of action before the upcoming high season and before the renegotiations of the treaty. The delegations expressed confidence that the deliberations will have a positive outcome for Aruba and the US CBP. □

Nephtaly Croes named Director of Engineering at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

PALM BEACH — Nephtaly Croes was appointed Director of Engineering, effective July 16th, after serving as Assistant Director for the past 2 years. Nephtaly assisted Director of Engineering, Ramon Avila, who worked on the island for four years before returning to his home, in Puerto Rico, at the beginning of the year.

Upon his departure, it gave Avila great pleasure to leave his beloved engineering department in the hands of a highly-qualified woman, Nephtaly, who started overseeing the departments' activities from then on.

Having graduated as an industrial engineer, Nephtaly was looking for work on the island in her field, and interviewed at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino for the engineering department, though in possession of zero hospitality experience.

She was at the time doing special projects for WEB, the island's water and electricity plant and later at the Bubali Plas Plant, and when she least expected it, the resort called back, for a second interview.

It was stressful, she admits, but the response was positive, and when she accepted the offer, she was sent on to Florida, for a 6-week field experience tour, at a number of Hilton resorts in the Orlando area, so she



could get insight into that branch of engineering.

Nephtaly reports it was a helpful and educational opportunity, from which she benefitted greatly. Upon her return from the USA, she joined the company, in January 2019, overseeing electricians, carpenters, painters, and a crew of 27. She is in charge of gardens, pools, rooms, and public places, even the bird interaction garden, feeling right at home and at ease, getting to know every nook and cranny of the facility, walking, listening, learning,

especially from her long-time supervisors.

"I am still learning, every day," she says, and since the retirement of Avila, she has demonstrated excellent leadership and organizational skills, and has proven a reliable steward for the Grande Dame, of Palm Beach.

During a recent current interruption, she found herself at room service, alongside other department heads, lending a helping hand. "I fit right in, and I am here to stay," she declares. □



Applying magic to Caribbean tourism

by Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

Having aspirations to be part of the Caribbean tourism industry? Get education in hospitality programs of universities or academies, right? Not always right! Webinars or workshops of hospitality or tourism consultants, right? Not necessarily right either! Then what the heck seems to be right?

Think of the "Disney Institute" and it is no Micky Mouse! It is not about turning the Caribbean into Disney World. It is all about the Caribbean learning about and then applying some of the principles that made Disney beloved and successful. Caribbean authenticity can not only be preserved, but it can actually be enhanced and made unique. What does the Disney Institute claim that no University and no tourism or hospitality education program does? "Explore lessons from 50 years of Magic", "Discover the Method Behind the Magic". Does that tell you something? Universities and academies don't teach magic. It is just not their style.

How the Disney Institute is profiled. Not trying to promote an institution, but rather just providing one with food for thought. The Disney Institute is the professional development and external training arm of "The Walt Disney Company". The company showcases 'the business behind the magic' through seminars, workshops and presentations, as well as programs for professionals from many different industries, including healthcare, aerospace/aviation, government/military, food/beverage and retail. For professionals from Aviation? Actually, the first time I heard about the Disney Institute was from a keynote speaker of the Institute at the world's largest business aviation convention.

An employee that works at Disney Parks or at the Disney Store is a "Disney Cast Member". They have various jobs, also like tending to rides and attractions, and even such as watching over security. There are requirements and strict rules that a "Disney Cast Member" must follow

and being part of what some consider the happiest place on earth or a magical environment to work in. Those rules may include allowed hair styles, wearing specific glasses if needed.

Cast members are supposed to help making a magic dream a reality, each and every day. They are trained to be as positive and as nice as possible, to both the young and young at heart. Maybe most important are the cast member rules to always represent the magic, never leave questions unanswered, and full availability. No pointing with one finger because in some cultures of the visitors, pointing with one finger is considered the height of rudeness. The suggestion is to point using an entire flat hand. One never stops learning. It is not surprising that cast members have to follow a "Disney Traditions Class". Ever heard of a "Caribbean Traditions Class" for tourism stakeholders?

There are things to think about, that actually could be applied to show Caribbean authenticity. Maybe employees wearing an appropriate Caribbean costume. And of course, sell Caribbean souvenirs that are not made in the Far East, but rather produced by islanders in a local home industry. What preferably not to sell? Disney chooses not to sell gum at any location within their premises. The fact that there's never any gum on the ground is thanks to the fact that it's not for sale in any of the parks. It keeps the parks clean.

Trash cans are positioned in certain distances at every Disney theme park. If not, then debris may end up on the street or in the environment. One will find garbage cans conveniently placed every 30 steps from each other, encouraging guests to throw away their trash! 30 steps may be little, but 30 yards or meters would be acceptable. Actually, Disney makes it fun to throw away trash by placing adorable, iconic trash cans all over their premises and guests seem to respond perfectly by throwing their

trash away with delight. Imagine if a motion detector activates an electronic voice saying, "Feed me more. I'm hungry!" It can make throwing trash away an unforgettable event. Here, those so called adorable iconic trash cans could also be made locally in the region to help economy diversification.

How about promoting Caribbean "Imagineering"? There is an institution called "Walt Disney Imagineering Research & Development, Inc." Imagineering is the creative force behind memorable experiences that connect and inspire across generations and borders. Imagineers are characterized by making the impossible possible. Bringing the most awe-inspiring new or traditional cherished effects or characteristics to life. Imagineers can be any role on an island from educators, illustrators, architects, decorators or designers, costume or fashion designers to landscapers. "We dare ourselves to think beyond what's possible. To defy imagination. And to do things that have never been done. That fearless creativity is in our DNA, and directs the incredible, immersive experiences we create around the world." – Bob Weis, President of Walt Disney Imagineering

Someone in the Caribbean may

want to explore, create and follow some of the same principles as the ones described above, yet adjusted to what the Caribbean has to offer. At least one might think about working together with the Walt Disney people. It is very often claimed that some countries in the Far East are copying things and then producing it themselves. Their claim is that they don't copy, but that they are learning. The Caribbean can learn from the principles of the magic that made an industry partner beloved and successful.

Don't copy! Just learn! Think of contributing to a new post-pandemic normal. Humm..., I may consider having a keynote speaker of the Walt Disney Institute making a presentation at my next conference.

About the author.

Cdr. Bud Slabbaert is the Chairman and Coordinator of CARIBAVIA, the Caribbean Aviation Meetup, an annual result and solution oriented conference for stakeholders of 'airlift' in the Caribbean. Mr. Slabbaert's background is accentuated by aviation business development, strategic communication, and journalism. In accordance with his study of Economy in his younger years in Germany, he is authorized to carry the title of 'State Certified Economist'



"Buy it when you see it." Retailers dread holiday shortages

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

The Perfect Pigg, a gift shop owned by Ginger Pigg, is the go-to place for residents of Cumming, Georgia, to pick up gift items like kids toys and home goods. But this year, store shelves might be a little sparse. Because of bottlenecks in the global supply chain, many stores like Pigg's are scrambling to try to get all the inventory they can ahead of the crucial holiday shopping season.

"I'm a little stressed," said Pigg, who has about 60% of the Christmas inventory she usually has at this time. Some stock she ordered in July hasn't arrived yet. "I feel like I've done everything I could do," she said. "I'm hoping and praying it all comes in."

The global supply chain has been buffeted by a multitude of problems, from factories having to close due to COVID-19 surges, a lack of containers to ship items in, backups at ports and warehouses, and a shortage of truckers.

While bigger retailers like Walmart and Target have the power to buy their own containers, use air freight and take other steps to make sure they get inventory, smaller retailers are at the mercy of their vendors, who are increasingly suspending delivery guarantees and sometimes not communicating at all.

For Pigg, a pepper jelly she sells usually has a two-week turnaround time; now it takes four to six weeks to arrive, with no guarantee it will arrive at all. An order she placed for the jelly in July got delivered in October. And she's having trouble getting miscellaneous things, like shopping bags, and candles, due to shortages of the wicks and glass



Ginger Pigg moves boxes of shopping bags in the storage room of her gift boutique The Perfect Pigg in Cumming, Ga. on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

jars the candles come in. "It's just been one thing after another," she said.

Last year, Renee Silverman, owner of Irv's Luggage in Vernon, Illinois, didn't buy luggage ahead of the holidays — no one was traveling. This year, people are traveling and in need of luggage — but now the problem is finding luggage to sell them.

Inventory that was supposed to come in August and September has been pushed back to December due to supply problems. Silverman has tried spreading orders between five or six vendors, such as Samsonite and Ricardo Beverly Hills.

Meanwhile, prices are rising due to a surge in shipping costs. At this time last year, ocean freight rates from China to the U.S. West Coast were \$3,847 per 40-foot container. Now, the same container will cost \$17,377 to ship, according to Freightos, a Hong Kong-

based online freight marketplace.

Most vendors Silverman works with have raised prices one or two times over the past six months to offset the rising costs — normally they raise prices once every several years. So, she tried to place orders ahead of the price increases.

"I feel like I have 14 plates spinning in the air, not knowing what's coming when," she said. "Vendors don't call back or don't have answers."

Most of the delays involve inventory coming from China, and to a lesser extent Thailand, she said. Her vendors have told her the delays stem from ports being backed up.

The average time it takes for ocean freight to go door-to-door has increased 45% over the last year, from 51 days to 74 days, according to Freightos. Ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, account for 40%

of all shipping containers entering the United States. As of Monday evening, 73 container ships were at anchor, waiting to unload.

Normally, there's no wait for container ships to unload, said Kevin Ketels, a lecturer in global supply chain management at Wayne State University.

"These are major delays," he said.

Rob Pickering, owner of five Snapdoodle Toys & Games stores in the Seattle area, said ordering for the holidays has "been a real struggle."

Big holiday orders that are typically placed in August were instead moved up to July. So, the company's warehouse and stockrooms are fuller than normal for this time of year.

Still, some items that Pickering ordered in June and July haven't arrived. Some smaller toy makers have already stopped taking and filling any more orders for the holidays. Some popular items, including Ravensburger puzzles and Bruder trucks, both imported from Germany, are likely to be gone from shelves long before Christmas, Pickering said.

"We are telling our customers to buy it when you see

it, and don't plan on hoping to buy it later in the season," he said.

Some retailers have shifted production or created their own private label products to try to have more control over the stock they have on shelves.

Chris Lynch is co-founder of Everyday California, in La Jolla, California, a clothing brand with an online store and retail store, along with an adventure tour business. He has been experiencing supply chain issues "across the board," he said. COVID-19 cases surged in Vietnam in July and August, forcing some factories that make hats and other headwear to shut down. And there have been transportation problems with manufacturers in China, where he gets items like hoodies and sweatshirts.

Lynch shifted some production closer to home. He's making popular items like hats and T-shirts in Tijuana, Mexico. But he's still facing delays due to a shortage in raw materials.

Christine Noh, CEO of Nohbles, an independent chain of five shoe and apparel stores in New York and New Jersey, says she is terrified about the upcoming holiday season. Her inventory is down 58% and half the shelves in her warehouse are empty. Big shoe brands like Nike and Adidas were heavily affected when factories in Vietnam closed.

Noh started a private label line to help make sure to have enough stock in stores. The line makes fleece athletic sets and basic tees. It's manufactured in Bangladesh, where she has a relationship with the factory.

"When we're placing an order with them, we have more communication and visibility," she said. And she elected to air freight some of the clothes to make sure they come in.

Timing is key because of the short holiday window.

"If everything shows up in January, that's not really helpful," she said. "Hence, there's a feeling of everyone holding their breath collectively." □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Sowing

1 Canal machine selling

7 Taj Mahal city

11 Old deliverer

12 Blacken neighbor

13 Bookish sort

14 Bop on the noggin

15 Grabs

17 Highlands girl

20 Fall flower

23 Little devil

24 Tough bit in a steak

26 Clock numeral

27 "— Town"

28 Flamenco cheer

29 In transit

31 Tie the knot

32 Carrying out

33 Travel stops

34 Halloween haul

37 Roman garment

39 "Forget it!"

43 "E Pluribus —"

44 Walk with effort

45 Office helper

DOWN

1 Card spot

2 High card

3 Homer's neighbor

4 Accumulate

5 Lion's pride

6 Opposed

7 Get at

8 Its streets are

9 Fled in haste

10 Place of refuge

16 Congo's former name

M	A	P	L	E		P	E	C	A	N
A	L	I	E	N		A	L	O	N	E
M	A	G	I	C	T	R	I	C	K	S
A	S	S		O	V	A		O	A	T
			G	R	A	D	S			
S	C	A	R	E		E	N	A	C	T
E	U	R	O			A	G	E	S	
A	D	M	A	N		S	P	O	O	K
			N	O	B	L	E			
I	D	O		T	A	U		P	S	I
D	O	G	G	Y	T	R	E	A	T	S
E	E	R	I	E		P	A	P	A	L
A	R	E	N	T		S	T	A	G	E

Yesterday's answer

5 Lion's pride

6 Opposed

7 Get at

8 Its streets are

9 Fled in haste

10 Place of refuge

16 Congo's former name

17 Dwelled

18 Acid type

19 False

21 TV's

22 Oboe

24 Carving tool

25 Tire track

30 Freeway entrance

33 Debate

35 "Them"

36 Ripped

37 Chiding

38 Low

40 Peculiar

41 Long

42 Pricing word

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
			15			16			
17	18	19				20		21	22
23				24	25				
26				27				28	
29			30					31	
32						33			
		34			35	36			
37	38				39			40	41
43					44				
45					46				

10-27

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

H T T H I P Y A Y I V I Y Y P H W K P Y

J T E V Z J K T V P N K W I H Y W K I

Q A E Z I H Y T O S H T W K I E .

— X K S E V I Y Z P X R I H Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING. — MOTHER TERESA

U.N.: Greenhouse gas levels hit a new record, cuts fall short



In this Oct. 15, 2021 file photo, smoke rises from the Feyzin Total refinery chimneys, outside Lyon, central France.

Associated Press

By JAMEY KEATEN and FRANK JORDANS

GENEVA (AP) — Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a new record high last year and increased at a faster rate than the annual average for the last decade despite a temporary reduction during pandemic lockdowns, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report published Monday.

The news came as the United Nations climate office warned that the world remains off target for meeting its goal of cutting emissions as part of international efforts to curb global warming.

Both announcements came days before the start of a U.N. climate change conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Many environmental activists, policy-makers and scientists say the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 event, known as COP26 for short, marks an important and even crucial opportunity for concrete commitments to the targets set out in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

"The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin contains a stark, scientific message for climate change negotiators at COP26," World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said of his agency's annual report on heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. "At the current rate of increase in greenhouse gas concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris agree-

ment targets of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius (2.7-3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels."

According to the report, concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide were all above levels in the pre-industrial era before 1750, when human activities "started disrupting Earth's natural equilibrium."

The report draws on information collected by a network that monitors the amount of greenhouse gases that remain in the atmosphere after some quantities are absorbed by oceans and the biosphere. In its report, the Geneva-based agency also pointed to signs of a worrying new development: Parts of the Amazon rainforest have gone from being a carbon "sink" that sucks carbon dioxide from the air to a source of CO2 due to deforestation and reduced humidity in the region, it said.

"One of the striking messages from our report is that the Amazonian region, which used to be a sink of carbon, has become a source of carbon dioxide," Taalas said. "And that's because of deforestation. It's because of changes of the global local climate, especially. We have less humidity and less rainfall."

Oksana Tarasova, chief of WMO's atmospheric and environment research division, said the results showing the Amazon going from sink to source were a first, but he noted they were

from a specific southeastern portion of the Amazon, not the entire rainforest.

The U.N. climate office said separately Monday that its assessment of the formal commitments made by countries that signed up to the Paris accord suggests the world could reduce its emissions by 83-88% by 2050 compared with 2019. More worryingly, emissions in 2030 are projected to be 16% higher than in 2010, based on formal pledges so far.

"Such an increase, unless changed quickly, may lead to a temperature rise of about 2.7C (4.9F) by the end of the century," the U.N. said.

Experts argued that emissions must halve by 2030 compared with 2010 levels and essentially hit zero by mid-century, if the Paris goal of capping global warming at 2C, ideally no more than 1.5C, is to be achieved.

"Overshooting the temperature goals will lead to a destabilized world and endless suffering, especially among those who have contributed the least to the GHG emissions in the atmosphere," said Patricia Espinosa, who heads the U.N. climate office.

"We are nowhere near where science says we should be," she added.

However, recent announcements by China and India, the world's number one and number three emitters, weren't yet included in the analysis because they have yet to formally submit their targets to the U.N.

And Alok Sharma, who will preside over the U.N. talks in Glasgow, said progress had been made since the Paris deal was struck in 2015, when projections of existing emissions cuts pointed to warming of up to 4C.

The global average concentration of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, hit a new high of 413.2 parts per million last year, according to the WMO report. □

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Diversity study: TV looks more like U.S. and viewers approve

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television fare that reflects the nation's increasing racial and ethnic diversity is finding favor with industry gatekeepers and viewers, according to a study of the 2019-20 TV season released Tuesday.

Despite the pandemic that stymied Hollywood production, there were varying measures of growth in the hiring of people of color — and women — in on- and off-camera jobs, researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, said in the report.

In return, audience enthusiasm for shows such as creator-star Issa Rae's "Insecure" and the miniseries "Watchmen" with Emmy-winning actor Regina King proved that inclusion pays business as well as social dividends, said Darnell Hunt, dean of the school's social sciences division.

The report's biggest takeaway is "the mounting evidence for how important diversity is to today's audience," Hunt said in an interview. He co-wrote the annual report with Ana-Christina Ramón, a UCLA social sciences research director. Across streaming, cable and broadcast platforms, viewership among adults age 18 to 49 peaked in many cases when a show had a "majority-minority cast," Hunt said.

That conforms to the changing United States. In 2010, four years before



Executive producer Issa Rae, from left, Robin Thede, creator/executive producer/writer/star, and director Dime Davis participate in HBO's "A Black Lady Sketch Show" panel at the Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on July 24, 2019.

Associated Press

UCLA issued its first report on Hollywood's diversity record, whites represented 63.7% of the population. In 2020, that Census figure was just under 58%, the lowest on record.

"People basically want to see the TV shows that look like America, that have characters they can relate to and have experiences that resonate with them," Hunt said.

That builds on and reinforces previous findings for TV, he said. It also reflects the counterpart UCLA film study released earlier this year.

For all households including whites, for example, median ratings were highest for scripted broadcast shows

in which people of color were between 31% and 40% of the credited writers, the study found.

For white, Latino and Asian American homes, median ratings peaked for scripted cable shows whose casts were from 41% to 50% people of color, while Black household ratings were highest for shows with "majority-minority casts," the report said.

People of color fell short of parity in lead acting roles on all platforms. But for the first time in the report's history, overall cast diversity on scripted broadcast TV was slightly higher than in the general U.S. population (just under 43% ethnic and racial groups).

While actors of color also came close to "proportionate representation" in cable and streaming, most of the gains could be attributed to the increasing share of Black and multiracial roles, researchers found.

Asian Americans — the country's fastest-growing group — and Latinos remain underrepresented, while Native Americans are "virtually invisible," the report said.

As study co-author Ramón sees it, the problem lies partly with the industry's white monolith of network and studio executives who tend to view those ethnicities "very niche."

"I think they oftentimes think of stories from Latinx cre-

ators and Asian American creators as something really quite peripheral.... and not appealing to the quote-unquote mainstream," she said.

Hunt also cites "unimaginative" executive-suite decisions that reduce diversity to a choice between Black or white hires which he said underscores the need for other ethnic groups to fill decision-making roles.

The study examined a total of 461 scripted shows across all platforms to determine the employment inroads made by women and people of color as actors, writers, directors and series creators.

Generally, there was an increase in racial diversity in nearly all the job categories, with representation among women improving in roughly half of them.

Compared to the previous UCLA report, more people of color were credited writers across all of TV, with the percentage on broadcast episodes increasing from 23.4% to 26.4%; on cable, from 25.8% to 28.6%; on streaming, from 22.8% to 24.2%.

According to the study, "most of these gains can be attributed to women of color" — for instance, Robin Thede and her HBO series "A Black Lady Sketch Show." In contrast, men of color increased among broadcast credited writers but "treaded water in cable and digital." □

David Byrne says audiences seem 'thrilled' to be in theater



Musician David Byrne performs at the Broadway reopening of "David Byrne's American Utopia" at the St. James Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Since returning to Broadway's "American Utopia" after the pandemic pause, David Byrne has noticed a few things about his audience: It seems younger, a little more diverse and people are juiced to see live entertainment again.

"They're thrilled, just completely thrilled, to be in a theater, seeing a show, hearing music," he said. "It's like, 'wow, did we miss this or what?'"

"American Utopia" had its formal reopening at the St. James Theatre on Sun-


day, although there were a few weeks of previews. The music and dancing, performed by a barefoot troupe that operates without wires, is the same as before the break. The theatrical concert is a call for hope, connection and reaching utopia. Byrne has made a few changes to his monologues to reflect the times.

Some of the change in the audience composition might be due to Spike Lee's filmed version of "American Utopia," which streamed while the live show itself


was dark.

"I can sense that there are audience members who are not as familiar with the Talking Heads songs we play," he said. "They're coming to see it as a show, and they're taking it all in — not simply as music fans but as people who are seeing a show. They have to absorb it and process it in the same way that they would with any musical where they don't know all of the songs ahead of time."

Quickly in the show, he addresses what has kept people away. □



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Astros are proof that cheaters really do prosper

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Stop if this sounds familiar. The World Series is here, and so, unfortunately, are the Houston Astros.

For the third time in just five years, if you're keeping score at home. And, yes, they've brought their baggage along.

The difference this time? We know who they are.

That wasn't the case in 2017 when Houston players banged garbage cans and hit like they knew what was coming in beating the Dodgers in seven games. It wasn't the case two years ago when the core group of Astros that is still with the team got a free pass in a losing effort against the Nationals because their cheating ways had yet to be exposed.

But now we know. Even as we try to forget, we know. Tune in Tuesday night if you're so inclined, though for many this will be a tough World Series to watch. The sight of Astros like Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman or Jose Altuve at the plate will be a painful reminder of what happened in the recent past and a constant



A Boston Red Sox fan holds a sign up during the second inning in Game 3 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the Houston Astros in Boston, in this Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

reminder that none of them has missed even one paycheck because of it. Many of the same players who stole a title are playing for the trophy once again. Meanwhile, the Dodgers fell just short of the World Series, depriving them and their fans of their rightful chance to set things right on the field.

They likely may never get that chance again as the years go by and players move on. There will be no closure, because Commissioner Rob Manfred decided that the players who actually perpetrated the scheme should, for some reason, not be punished. So now the question becomes, is it time to let it go?

Will it ever be time to let it go?

The answers aren't terribly hard to figure out.

Viewed at their worst, the World Series favorites consist of a core group of unapologetic cheaters who don't deserve their names on one World Series trophy much less a spot on another.

At their best, well, the Astros are a bunch of unapologetic cheaters who, well, you try to fill in the rest.

No, the Atlanta Braves aren't perfect. But their only real crime is continuing to allow their fans to do the incessant tomahawk chop and chant that was tired and offensive even when Jane Fonda and Ted Turner were doing it back in the '90's. Compare that to the Astros, who should have collectively been charged with felony grand theft for what they did in 2017. The distaste about what transpired that year is only heightened by the arrogance of those who never even got a letter of reprimand for their actions.

No, not all the current Astros were on that team. But this team still has that 2017 smell, even if all the cheaters aren't still around.

The thought of them lifting another World Series trophy should disgust baseball fans — and fans of fairness — everywhere. Any idea that they should be celebrated by anyone outside of Houston for getting to a third World Series in five years is indefensible. □

Raducanu beats Hercog in Romania for 1st win since U.S. Open

CLUJ-NAPOCA, Romania (AP) — Emma Raducanu rallied to beat Polona Hercog of Slovenia 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 at the Transylvania Open on Tuesday for her first win since her stunning run to the U.S. Open title more than six weeks ago. It was also the teenager's first victory on the WTA Tour. "Super happy to get my first ever WTA win today," the 18-year-old Raducanu wrote on Twitter.

Raducanu, whose father is Romanian, became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam tournament. Less than two weeks later, she split from her coach, Andrew Richardson. She had only played in Indian Wells since, falling in the opening round. The 23rd-ranked Raducanu, of Britain, lost five straight games from 4-1 up in the opening set against Hercog but eased to victory

after breaking her 124th-ranked opponent at 6-5 in the second.


Grand Slam tournaments are not run by the WTA or ATP Tours.

In other first round play, Varvara Gracheva of Russia outlasted Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 to set up a match against either top-seeded Simona Halep or Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania. □



Emma Raducanu, of Britain, celebrates after defeating Polona Hercog of Slovenia at the Transylvania Open WTA tournament in Cluj, Romania, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021.

Associated Press



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Blackhawks GM resigns, team fined after sexual assault probe

By JAY COHEN and STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Sports Writers

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks mishandled allegations that an assistant coach sexually assaulted a player during the team's Stanley Cup run in 2010, according to an investigation commissioned by the franchise that cast a shadow over the NHL on Tuesday.

Stan Bowman, the general manager and president of hockey operations, resigned in the wake of the findings by an outside law firm, and the NHL fined the team \$2 million for "the organization's inadequate internal procedures and insufficient and untimely response."

Florida Panthers coach Joel Quenneville and Winnipeg Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff, who were with the Blackhawks when the sexual assault allegations were first



In this July 26, 2019, file photo, Chicago Blackhawks senior vice president and general manager Stan Bowman speaks to the media during the NHL hockey team's convention in Chicago.

Associated Press

reported, also were named in the report. There was no immediate word from either of their teams on their status.

The Blackhawks hired Jenner & Block to conduct

what they called an independent review in response to two lawsuits filed against the franchise: one alleging sexual assault by then-assistant coach Brad Aldrich during the team's Stanley

Cup run in 2010 and another filed by a former student whom Aldrich was convicted of assaulting in Michigan.

Team CEO Danny Wirtz called the report "both

disturbing and difficult to read," and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said it "makes clear that senior management's handling of the alleged incident included a failure to report the matter to Chicago ownership, both as to what was alleged and how it was being handled."

Bowman said he was stepping aside because he didn't want to be a distraction for the team.

"Eleven years ago, while serving in my first year as general manager, I was made aware of potential inappropriate behavior by a then-video coach involving a player," he said in a statement released by the team. "I promptly reported the matter to the then-president and CEO who committed to handling the matter."

"I learned this year that the inappropriate behavior involved a serious allegation of sexual assault. □

Mike Tomlin: idea he's a candidate for college jobs 'a joke'



Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin takes questions at the news conference after an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

By WILL GRAVES

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Note to big-time college football programs looking for new coaches: Mike Tomlin isn't

interested.

The Pittsburgh Steelers coach said Tuesday he considers it a "joke" that his name has popped up as

a potential candidate for places such as Southern California.

"I got one of the best jobs and in all the professional sports, why would I have any interest in coaching college football?" Tomlin said.

Former Heisman Trophy winner and USC star Carson Palmer told The Dan Patrick radio show that Tomlin was a "wild card" as the Trojans look for someone to replace Clay Helton, who was fired in September.

Former Buffalo Bills general manager Doug Whaley, who worked in the Steelers front office alongside Tomlin for several years before moving on to the

Bills, said on 93.7 The Fan in Pittsburgh last week that Steeler fans should be worried about the letters "U-S-C" and "L-S-U."

Tomlin is 148-81-1 in 15 seasons with the Steelers, one shy of the number his predecessor — Hall of Famer Bill Cowher — reached in the same number of seasons with the club. The Steelers signed Tomlin to a three-year contract extension in April that runs through 2024.

The 49-year-old, who played collegiately at William & Mary before going into coaching, has no connection to USC or LSU. He's spent the overwhelming majority of his coaching career in the NFL. Tomlin

last coached at the college level while serving as the defensive backs coach at the University of Cincinnati in 1999 and 2000. He joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as a defensive backs coach in 2001 and has been in the NFL since then.

Tomlin, whose team is 3-3 heading into a visit to AFC North rival Cleveland (4-3) on Sunday, said this would be the last time he addresses his name in connection — however loosely — with college jobs.

"Never say never, but never," he said. "Anybody else got any questions about any college jobs? There is not a booster with a big enough blank check." □